

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 13089

EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM

SUBJ: BELGIAN PROPOSAL ON OBSOLESCENCE

REFS: A) OECD PARIS 12592, B) COCOM PROC (77) 2.3

1. REF B, SUBMITTED MAY 2 IS 5-PAGE BELGIAN COMMENT ON AND REPLY TO US QUESTIONS PLACED ON RECORD APRIL 26. IT SHEDS LITTLE NEW LIGHT ON BELGIAN PROPOSAL. FOLLOWING IS BRIEF SUMMARY OF SALIENT POINTS FROM FRENCH TEXT, ENGLISH TRANSLATION NOT YET HAVING BEEN PUBLISHED.

2. IN INTRODUCTORY COMMENT, BELGIUM SHARES US OPINION THAT EMBARGO SHOULD BE BASED ON AVAILABILITY IN PROSCRIBED COUNTRIES. MEMBERS SHOULD REQUEST RELAXATION ON GROUND OF OBSOLESCENCE ONLY AFTER REACHING CONCLUSION, BASED ON THOROUGH STUDY, THAT STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS NO LONGER APPLY. US SUGGESTION OF REVIEW OF EMBARGO STATUS AS MATTER OF PRIORITY IS DISMISSED AS ADDING NOTHING THAT MEMBERS DO NOT HAVE ALREADY.

3. ANSWERS TO US QUESTIONS:

A) AN INVENTORY OF ALL MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT MEETING TEST OF OBSOLESCENCE WOULD NOT BE OF MUCH VALUE SINCE
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MEMBERS PROPOSING REMOVAL FROM EMBARGO MUST HAVE CONCLUDED AFTER THOROUGH STUDY THAT STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS ARE NO LONGER VALID. SUCH A LIST IN ANY CASE WOULD BE USEFUL ONLY FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

B) PRODUCTION CATALOGUES AND STATEMENTS BY MANUFACTURERS OR DEALERS. THESE WOULD BE EXAMINED BY WORKING GROUP.

C) AND D) THESE QUESTIONS WOULD BE PART OF THE STUDY TO BE MADE BY ANY MEMBER PROPOSING DISEMBARGO FOR OBSOLESCENCE.

E) IMPOSSIBLE TO ANSWER NOW.

F) AMENDMENT OF ITEMS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BY ANY OR ALL OF THE WAYS MENTIONED.

G) MEMBERS OPPOSED TO DISEMBARGO FOR OBSOLESCENCE WILL BE ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THESE AMENDMENTS BY "ACCEPTING LOYALLY THE CONSEQUENCES FLOWING FROM THE OBSOLESCENCE CRITERION. IF AGREEMENT IS IMPOSSIBLE, LIST OF MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT FREED WOULD ENTER INTO FORCE AS FORESEEN WHILE AWAITING UNANIMOUS ACCEPTANCE OR REQUIRED AMENDMENT."

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